

10 December 2021

Dear Parent,

Derbyshire Police wanted us to highlight the dangers surrounding e-scooters, in case any parent was considering buying one of these for a Christmas gift.

### **Derbyshire Constabulary and e-scooters**

We have seen an increase in the use of e-scooters primarily amongst young persons. Police and local Councilors' have received complaints from members of the public about their use on roads, pavements and other public areas such as parks. We expect a further increase post-Christmas. There is also the obvious safety element with riders risking causing injury to themselves or others riding at speed in public places.

Please can you make all students and parents aware of important information regarding e-scooters. The simple message would be that no privately owned e-scooters are allowed to be used anywhere other than on private land that has no general public access and with the landowner's permission. We do not wish e-scooters to be purchased in good faith by parents under the mistaken belief that they can be used as a road legal form of transport. We also want anyone who owns one to be aware of the rules and not use them outside of what the law allows. If they are caught riding one they risk having the e-scooter confiscated, getting a fine and points on their driving license (possibly before they actually get it meaning they can't start driving until the points have expired).

### **Below are some useful frequently asked questions:**

#### **Derbyshire Constabulary and e-scooters**

Avoid getting confused about the use of e-scooters by staying legal and staying safe. Our officers are engaging with communities to ensure people don't misuse them.

#### **I've just bought an e-scooter. Can I use it during the Derby Trial E-Scooter Trial?**

**A:** No all e-scooters are classed as 'motor vehicles' under the Road Traffic Act regardless of whether or not they are part of the trial. All e-scooter riders are subject to traffic legislation, drink and drug drive laws etc. The crucial difference is that the Government exempted certain legal restrictions to allow the use of **hired e-scooters on roads**. These e-scooters are provided solely as part of the trial and can only be obtained via the operator for Derby City, a company called WIND. Only e-scooters provided as part of the trial can be used on roads - on a par with pedal cycles. They should stand out as they are painted yellow. E-scooters used in the trial are programmed with both 'no go' and 'go slow' functionality to help safeguard proper use. Privately owned e-scooters can only be used on private land where there is no public access and permission has been granted by the land owner to do so.

The law is clear in that retailers can sell e-scooters but they cannot be sold for use on the roads, only on private land.

#### **What happens if I use my own e-scooter on the roads anyway?**

**A:** The rider risks police action for no driving license and insurance (£300 fine and 6 penalty points), vehicles not registered/no registration number, construction and use offences to name a few..... so please don't risk breaking the law and getting points and a fine.

**What about e-scooters being used for food deliveries around the City -is this allowed?**

**A:** The same legal restrictions for private e- scooter use apply. The riders risk committing offences simply by using private scooters on roads.

**What about buying my child an e-scooter so they can travel to and from school?**

**A:** Not only is there the road safety risk, doing so could mean the rider is stopped by police and unknowingly commits offences and risks penalty points either on their current license if they have one or future license when they obtain one. The only way a privately e-scooter can be used is on private land and then no driving documents are required. Many e-scooters have a maximum speed of 15.5 mph or more in some cases which can put other road users at risk particularly pedestrians.

**How will Derbyshire Constabulary deal with e-scooter riders?**

**A:** Police officers will be engaged in improving awareness but e-scooter riders who knowing or persistently break the law will be dealt with appropriately.

**Where do I find out more information?**

Check out the Derby City Council Website or the Gov.Uk Website. Know the law before purchasing or using one.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

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